

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

VOL. II.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1819.

No. 5.

Statistics.

TOBACCO TRADE.

A table, showing the exports of Tobacco from the United States, and current prices of Virginia tobacco, from 1800 to 1818, inclusively.

Year ending Sept. 30.	Hhds. exported to foreign ports.	Prices in Liverpool in October	
		Leaf.	Stemmed.
1800	78,680	3 to 7d	5 to 9d
1801	103,758	2½ 6	5 7
1802	77,721	3½ 6½	4½ 6½
1803	86,291	3½ 7½	5½ 8
1804	83,343	3½ 6½	6 8
1805	71,152	3½ 6½	6 8
1806	83,186	3 6½	6 7½
1807	62,232	3½ 7	6 8½
1808	embargo	11½ 15½	14 16½
1809	53,921	6 14	12 14
1810	84,134	2 7	5 7
1811	35,828	2 8	5 8
1812	War	3 10	5 9
1813	do.	5 20	11 17
1814	do.	24 48	42 48
1815	85,198	8 16½	13 16½
1816	69,721	5½ 13	9 13
1817	64,891	5 9	8½ 10
1818	84,337	6½ 12	10 12½

For the eleven years preceding the war of 1812, (excluding the year 1808,) the average annual export was 74,567 hhds.; the average price in Liverpool for leaf, 3½ to 7d. and in London 4 to 7½d. per lb. For the four years since the war, the average annual export has been 76,037 hhds.; and prices in England, as well as other markets, have been unsettled and extremely fluctuating; owing to the interruption occasioned by the war to the regular course of trade, the deranged state of the currency of Europe and this country, and other causes, which time only will correct.—The trade in these four years has consequently been hazardous.

The exports of Tobacco from the United States, in the years ending 30th Sept. 1817 and 1818, were:

	Year 1817.	Year 1818.
From New Hampshire	26 hhds.	12
Vermont	22	3

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From Massachusetts	3,690	3,416
Rhode Island	995	202
Connecticut	76	23
New York	9,921	7,764
Pennsylvania	3,050	2,269
Maryland	8,988	12,681
District Columbia	1,987	2,813
Virginia	16,979	24,736
North Carolina	1,349	1,235
South Carolina	1,323	1,973
Georgia	2,034	3,070
Louisiana	14,451	24,138
Michigan	none	2
	64,891	84,337

Whence Exported.

	1817.	1818.
To England, Ireland, Scotland, &c.	18,454	33,501
Holland, Hanse towns, and Germany	16,510	31,465
France	9,892	6,569
Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar	10,200	7,921
W. Indies, Dutch, Spanish, French, and American colonies	6,206	2,042
All other parts	3,629	2,839
Total	64,891	84,337

Virginia Pat.]

SUSQUEHANNA.

The following is a statement of the property which came down the north branch of the Susquehanna river, in the spring of 1819. The number and value of the arks, &c. were ascertained by Mr. Jacob Albright, gatekeeper of the Northumberland Bridge, who has spared no attention in the accomplishment of his object. The public may rely upon the statement as authentic.

2 Arks with hoop-poles at	\$ 200	\$ 400
34 do. stone coal,	300	11,200
11 do. boards,	400	4,400
47 do. staves,	320	15,040
19 do. shingles,	600	11,400
38 do. plaister,	490	18,620
2 do. whiskey and gin,	2400	4,800
7 do. flour,	1500	10,500
7 do. wheat,	1000	7,000
516 bbls of salt, at \$ 5 per bbl.		2,580

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40 Arks with pork.	15	600
1085 Rafts with different loadings, viz. boards, rails, shingles, staves, hoop-poles, wooden dishes, grindstones, cheese, &c.	400	434,000
Whole amount,	520,540	

It is supposed that the property which came down the west branch, amounted to about the same as that from the north branch; the whole, therefore, amounted to about one million of dollars. [Times.]

Miscellany.

We recommend the following essay, on a question affecting the very existence of society, to the serious attention of our readers. It is rather longer than newspaper essays usually are, but it is also much better.

ON DIVORCE.

Maryland, July, 1819.

The state of Maryland has no statute investing its judicial tribunals with powers to adjudge and decree upon the subject of divorce, total or partial. In virtue of common law attributes, they pronounce in questions of validity of alleged marriage; but this includes no power to adjudge or decree a dissolution of a valid marriage, or a suspension or modification of the exercise of those legal rights and powers acquired over each other's bodies and goods, by virtue of an intermarriage. The legislative bodies have themselves hitherto exercised the power, upon petition of one of the parties, of annulling marriages, by special acts: undertaking, in the plenitude of their supposed power, to disseize the citizen, sometimes without a knowledge of what is going on, or against his or her consent, of his or her acquired matrimonial rights and powers, by acting at once in the triple capacity of jurors, judges, and legislators. As jurors, they hear the testimony and find the facts; as judges, they pronounce that the occurrence of the facts works a forfeiture of matrimonial civil rights; but as there is no law of the land declaring such forfeiture upon the occurrence of any facts whatever, they, as legislators, expressly enact a law for the case; that is, they declare the particular marriage null and void, which amounts to a legislative inhibition to the exercise of matrimonial civil right. Is not this, strictly and literally, passing a law, after the act is committed, declaring the punishment for the act? If this be not, in its nature and consequences, an ex post facto law, forbidden by the bill of rights, it is too difficult to conceive the meaning of the term ex post facto.

It may be laid down, as a general position, that the only proper sphere of action of the legislature is, to prescribe rules for the citi-

zens to operate prospectively, and not to sit in judgment upon the past immoral acts of individuals, except in the cases expressly fixed by the constitution, where the removal of judges, by the joint address of both houses, is in question; or except in cases where the House of Delegates *only* may act as the grand inquest of the state; or always excepting extreme cases, that cannot be defined beforehand in a constitution, where the safety, or some mighty interest of the state, is involved. It will not be contended, it is presumed, that the conjugal misconduct of individuals can come within any exceptions that can be laid down.

The subject of divorce is considered an important one, and, notwithstanding the innumerable precedents of such acts of assembly, it is here wished to excite investigation and discussion of the constitutionality of those summary legislative interdictions to the exercise of matrimonial rights and privileges, acquired by anterior laws, and never forfeited by any known rule of anterior law. The following questions are submitted:—In what part of the constitution of the state is the power given to the legislature, either expressly or by obvious implication, to divorce, in the manner it has done? Has the legislature an abstract right or power to divorce, without the knowledge, or contrary to the consent, of both the parties? Does the consent of the parties confer a power upon the legislature that it did not possess without such consent? Does the application or expressed wish for the divorce, by one of the parties only, confer a power on the legislature to deprive the other party of all matrimonial civil rights? What is the legal effect of a divorcing act of assembly, with respect to the property then possessed by the parties, or the property that either of them may subsequently possess by gain, or purchase, or inheritance?

Whatever doubts there may be upon the constitutionality of the legislature itself exercising this species of judicial power in the direct manner it has done, there can be no doubt but that every body politic has the right and the power, through its legislative organ, to specify the causes or facts that shall operate a forfeiture of matrimonial civil rights, and to invest its judicial tribunals with the authority to apply the law to the facts. But the forfeiture of matrimonial civil rights is one thing, and the complete dissolution of a good and valid marriage is another thing. Has the legislature a right or power itself to dissolve a good and valid marriage, (a vinculo matrimonii,) or to invest its tribunals with that power? This is a question that involves serious considerations and difficulties. In the first place, is such a legislative procedure, or would such a law to invest the tribunals, be subordinate to, and compatible with, the precepts of Christianity, which we all profess to acknowledge as the paramount law upon the subject? This is a question for divines. Montesquieu has said, in his Spirit of the Laws,

that "it is for the law of religion to decide whether the bond (of marriage) shall be indissoluble or not; for, if the laws of religion have established the bond indissoluble, and the civil laws have enacted that it may be broken, this would be two contradictory things."

If the Christian law forbids the dissolution of a good and valid marriage, no Christian authorities can dissolve it in reality, whatever they may affect to be doing. Religiously speaking, human legislatures cannot repeal divine laws. Marriage is both a civil and religious contract. "All that regards the character of the marriage, its form, the manner of contracting it; all that is of the jurisdiction of religion. The consequences of this union, with relation to property, the reciprocal advantages, all which has a relation to the new family, to that from which it has gone out, to that which may be born; all that regards the civil laws." *Montesquieu*. So far, then, as marriage is a civil contract, the civil laws may modify, restrain, or annihilate the civil rights. But what can civil laws effect with regard to the religious part of the contract—with regard to that vow of adherence mutually given and accepted, made in the presence of the All Powerful, called on to witness it, without other reserves, expressed or implied, than death? It is this solemn vow, made in such awful presence, and with the intervention of the minister of religion, that takes the contract out of the class of ordinary civil conventions—that renders it indissoluble at the will and pleasure of the parties themselves, or, as is conceived, by any human authorities. The moral obligation to fulfil it must remain to the death of one. If these propositions be sustainable, it may be asked, are not those acts of assembly that purport to divorce from the bond of matrimony, "*a vinculo matrimonii*," mere delusions upon the unreflecting?—purporting to dissolve that, which, religiously speaking, is incapable of being dissolved.

The writer of this has no intention of disguising his knowledge that different interpretations of scripture are made, by different denominations of Christians of Maryland, as to the durable and obligatory nature of the marriage bond.* Upon that point he intends no

further discussion. But, admitting that the precepts of Christianity are not adverse to a dissolution of the marriage bond, and that legislatures are competent to dissolve, or to authorize its judicial authorities to declare a dissolution in defined cases, it remains to consider the moral effects of such a system, and whether a due regard for the preservation of the purity of public morals, so essential for the conservation of republican institutions, does not forcibly forbid the exercise of this power, under either form. Its exercise can only be predicated upon the view of assuaging wounded sensibilities; of alleviating indivi-

that they leave the parties free to judge and act for themselves, as to the moral obligation or religious part of the contract." If this is their understanding, it is by no means clearly inferrible from the phraseology of their bills, which have all had one formula for many years past. "Be it enacted, &c. That the marriage of A. and B. heretofore solemnized, be and the same is hereby declared to be absolutely, to all intents and purposes, null and void; and the said A. and B. are declared to be divorced, *a vinculo matrimonii*." And it then provides, that the children born of the said A. and B. shall not be construed to be illegitimate. These positive, broad, and comprehensive words and terms, especially the fascinating Latin, are apt to lead the good divorced folks into a mistake of its meaning. They are not aware of the mental reservations and distinctions of their good legislators, but simple enough to believe the bill means what it says; and that the omnipotent power of freeing them absolutely, to all intents and purposes, and *a vinculo*, and moral obligation in the bargain, resides where it seems to be assumed. It never enters into their simple conceptions, that the constitutionally presumed most sensible, wise, and discreet men of the state, pass laws with smiles and pleasantries, (as is usually the case when these sort of bills are put to their passage,) one effect and consequence of which laws is, to legalize moral wrongs, moral bigamy, and perjury. Those good, simple, divorced people suppose, very naturally, and in good faith, that the moral wrong, too, of a second marriage, is completely done away by the intrinsic force of the dispensing power of a previous act of assembly. If this is not the case—if legislators make no pretensions to the right and power of previously dispensing with morality, it would be but an act of charity and justice, as well as more honourable, to tell the people so, in plainer words and terms, to convey the intention and meaning, than have hitherto been used in the divorcing bills. It certainly behoves honest intention to put the people clearly and explicitly on their guard, as to the moral predicament in which they stand, after the divorcing bill is passed. This course alone might greatly reduce the number of applications that might otherwise be made.

* It is believed (perhaps erroneously) that the doctrine of no denomination of Christians known in Maryland goes farther than to maintain, from the New Testament, that the absolute divorce is allowable in any other case, than in that of adultery of the wife.—Of what denomination of Christians are those, who, disregarding the most extensive interpretation of scripture as a rule, vote for the divorce bills in cases where adultery is not alleged against the wife, or even the husband? Some (perhaps all) find a salvo for their conscience, in saying "that they consider themselves as voting for nothing more than a dissolution of the civil contract, or the civil part of the contract of marriage; and

dual conjugal misfortunes; and, even where it appears the most just and humane, must it not always draw after it grave and certain evils? The scandal of morals; the danger of example; the division of families; the education and fate of offspring jeopardised; and often a propensity to libertinism favoured and encouraged. These are but a small portion of the consequences, more or less slow, more or less visible, that must inevitably flow out of a system of the absolute divorce. Such is the destiny of the laws and tolerations which the depravation of morals seems to render expedient, that each particular remedy only increases the public evil; and the legislature, for having once yielded, soon becomes forced to yield still more, and in some sort to legislate corruptly, in order to keep pace with the corruptions of man. The ancient Romans experienced these consequences and evils upon the same occasion of divorce. From the earliest times the husband had the privilege of repudiating the wife; but, virtuous manners counteracting and controlling the passions, ages rolled on before a single husband ventured to use his privilege of repudiation. —No sooner was one husband found bold enough to hazard this dangerous example, than imitators multiplied, and the abuse became propagated to such a degree, that, to establish a balance, they were obliged to grant to the wives the reciprocal liberty of quitting their husbands. Instead of arresting the torrent of depravity, this was opening two passages for the inundation. The wives, in their turn, so abused their new right that, in a short lapse of time, they would refer to past years by the names of the husbands they had then had, instead of the names of the consuls for the year referred to. Rome lost her liberty through corruption, and dissoluteness continued to make such progress, that the emperor Theodosius was obliged to fix and specify, in a law, the particular causes and cases in which alone the divorce could be authorized. This example of the Romans, so remarkable, will serve as a conclusive answer to the pretended advantages of admitting, extending, and favouring the rupture of the marriage bond. An opinion, a conviction of the indissoluble nature of the marriage bond, is a necessary curb, an useful counterpoise to that proneness to change and novelty too inherent in the imperfect nature of man.

Is it not the wiser and safer course to let a few individuals suffer under the chagrins incident to the conjugal state, than to hazard the opening of the flood-gates to depravity? Take mankind, such as they are, and hold out the prospect that the marriage bond may be severed in consequence of one's own acts, and experience teaches that it will give birth to a spirit of restlessness in the conjugal state, that never would have been generated without that prospect held out. Make cruelty a cause for the absolute divorce, and it is to be feared that cruelties will multiply. Make adultery the cause, and adulteries will mul-

tiply; even collisions will be resorted to, to impose upon and obtain this end, when desired by both the parties. An attempt to cure the evils incident to the conjugal state, by opening the door of the absolute divorce, is like casting oil upon the conflagration; it infallibly increases the evil intended to be remedied. The experience of the state of Maryland itself proves the truth of this: annually there is a progressive increase of applications for divorce, and the facility with which they have been granted seems to make marriages dissolvable at the will and pleasure of the parties, and almost at the pleasure of one of the parties. They are rarely refused if any genteel interest is exerted in their favour; they are often granted upon nothing but *ex parte* representations, unaccompanied with any thing like the shadow of what can be called legal testimony of the facts alleged; sometimes upon the simple allegation of incompatibility of tempers (or what in substance amounts to no more,) as they were granted by the civil magistrates in France during the phrenzy of the revolution. The Congress of the United States, having exclusive legislative jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, have set their faces against the applications for divorce made to them; the consequence is, that a party in the district wishing for a divorce, comes across the line into Maryland, pays board at some house for a month or two, for which a receipt is sent to the legislature of Maryland, as evidence of residence in Maryland, and the application is granted. Judging from the past, the causes for divorce seem to be unlimited. There is no rule upon the subject promulgated to the citizens. The rule is locked up in the breast of a legislature, ever varying in its component parts, and the divorce is granted or refused at its momentary and arbitrary will and pleasure. It is time for this state of things to cease; it is time to oppose some barriers to this too great facility of divorce, or, judging from the rapid strides a laxity of principles has already made, we may soon expect scenes that will cast opprobrium upon the marriage state, and sully the dignity of the most sacred and honourable of human engagements. Have we not already seen the new marriage of a divorced party take place under the very eyes of the legislature, as it were, almost before the ink was dry that endorsed the passage of the divorcing bill?

If, then, there is now no hope of halting—no hopes of retracing back our steps to the only safe and simple principle, “that a marriage, once good and valid, ought always to remain unbroken,” it would be infinitely preferable to the present system, to have a code upon the subject, specifying and defining with precision the causes upon which the complete rupture of the marriage chain may be decreed by the judicial authorities, which, from their nature and rules of procedure, and fixed principles by which they are governed, must be so much more competent to ascer-

tain the truth of the facts alleged, and detect attempts at collusion of the parties, than it is possible for a legislative body to be.

The proposal of a law to be passed to invest the courts with the authority of completely annulling good and valid marriages in defined cases, is here made *only* as an alternative far preferable to the present system. But, objections have been made to any system at all of annulling, upon two grounds; first, that it is at least doubtful whether the annulling is not contradictory to that paramount law of religion, to which we all acknowledge subjection, second, that, considering the corruptibility of man, the examples and practice of annulling will prodigiously accelerate the corruption of public morals, and proportionally endanger the public liberty. This cannot be considered a mere speculative opinion. It is confirmed by all history, that a corrupt people soon lose their liberties—and how can we flatter ourselves that our country will form an exception?

It is now submitted, whether the supposed difficulties and dangers, comprised in the two objections, may not be avoided, and all the ends of a prudent and wise legislation better attained, by *only slackening*, not breaking, the nuptial band? Whether it would not be a much more rational and efficacious system to repress conjugal waywardness, delinquencies, and disorders, and to alleviate the sufferings of the matrimonially unfortunate, and without the danger of opening the door to corruption, for the legislature to specify and define the causes on which the courts may adjudge the *partial divorce only*, “*a mensa et thoro*,” a separation of bodies and goods?

It is but too true, that the marriage bond, destined to form the sweetest charm of human life, often fills it with bitterness and woe. It must be confessed, that man is too weak, too imperfect, too changeable, for the laws which govern him always to remain inflexible. In all times the torrent of morals forces on the laws: necessarily they must follow man in his starts and wanderings, with the hope of reclaiming him. What law ought somewhat to relax from its rigour, and suffer temperaments and exceptions, more than that which imposes a yoke for life upon two unequal beings, the one of whom has in his favour strength and authority, which he may abuse against the weakness of the other? Ought not the unfortunate victim to be lamented and succoured, who, instead of finding a friend in a husband, finds only an odious tyrant, whose angry transports every moment threaten her life; or who, by a slow and meditated cruelty, makes of her life a torture more frightful than death? So long as man may deceive himself, may change in his temper and habits, and grow corrupt; so long as a thousand interests, all different from mutual love and esteem, may determine to matrimonial unions; so long as the authority of parents may cross the choice of the heart, may chain virtue to vice, may bind together incompatible humours and characters: thus

long it will be not only just, it will be necessary, not to reject the complaint of the oppressed—to lend attention to the recital of her woes; and if they are found grave, if they revolt humanity, to wrest her from the power of her oppressor. To leave her for ever in the grievous subjection to an unfeeling tyrant, would be a rigour insulting to humanity—would be crushing oppressed innocence—would change grief into despair.

But, neither, should light causes suffice to slacken the nuptial bond, even to authorize the judgment of separation of bodies and goods. There ought to be weighty causes; excesses that revolt, misfortunes that there is ground to dread, and which it is essential to the order of society to prevent. If the husband have insulted by his licentiousness under the very eyes, as it were, of his wife; if he have beaten her as a slave; if he have publicly defamed her character in an important point; if he have an odious and disgusting habitude of intemperance that continually rends the heart, that unceasingly causes the eye of meekness to overflow, and threatens family penury and beggary—these are causes that do occur; these are causes sufficient to alarm and interest society, and loudly call for a system of legal regulations to succour the victim; for it then becomes time to withdraw her from the turpitude and furies of an unprincipled tyrant. Let the tribunals be vested with an almost unlimited discretion in the separation of the property, and one example of some rigour towards the depraved would be of some efficacy in society.

It would rarely happen that he might not make his peace, and be substantially reinstated, upon satisfactory evidence of returning reason and virtue. But, in such cases of depravity, totally to rend asunder the nuptial band, as in the annulling system—to leave him free, with all his advantages of fortune, to prowl again in society for fresh victims, would be nothing less than giving a premium to depravity—that reward to vice, which perhaps had been the mainspring of its action—to approve the violation of civil and moral obligation, instead of punishing it. If such courses of procedure as the annulling system fail sooner or later to demoralize a people, all history must be fable. What must be the feelings of a youth of sensibility, arrived to the period of reason and reflection, to find his mother and father the wife and husband of different persons? Mortification and shame must overwhelm him, unless the generality of the case may keep him in countenance. And what the feelings of the second lot of offspring of one of these ruptured marriages, at the dishonour in which they find themselves born? It behoves legislators to respect the feelings and guard the honour of the unborn generations; to take care, as far as in them lies, that the coming generations be born in honour.

The formation of a system upon this subject of legislation, ought to be the offspring of the meditations of profound jurists. A le-

gislature of Maryland once had a diffidence of its own capacities, and called on one of its great law luminaries to report a testamentary system, which was adopted.

Nat. Intel.]

ANTI-BIGAMIST.

CONFUSION OF CHARACTERS.

What is left of Lord Mansfield's politics? Nothing that is worthy an historian's notice, but his absurd and strained interpretation of the law of libel; a proof that the best intellect may be overshadowed by the meanest interests. Yet his general opinions afford abundant materials to illustrate the history of English jurisprudence, and to mark the period in which the commercial law of that country began to assume a scientific form.

What have we now of the many shifts and devices, the plots and contrivances, the oppressions and resistances, of Sir Edward Coke? Little that can interest the friends of liberty, except his noble stand in the affair of the *Commerdams*. The mean malignity with which he pursued the innocence and insulted the distress of Raleigh, is an ingrained stain on his character, and an infamous proof of the pliancy of his principles to the views and politics of his day: yet his comment on Littleton will be the fertile mine of the English lawyer as long as, and wherever, that peculiar system of artificial jurisprudence may prevail.

What have we of Lord Bacon's politics, but the corrupting effect and the disgraceful issue? And surely, if ever the highest powers, united to a capacity enlarged by deep and varied learning, could have saved a man from the contempt that dogs the heels of corruption, Lord Bacon might have claimed the privilege of exemption: but not his professional knowledge, and it was profound; not his philosophical speculations, the fruitful parent of wonderful discovery; not his oratorical powers, and no man has excelled him; not the ornate graces of his captivating delivery, and the effect is said to have been magical, could rescue him from the misery of a degraded life, and the bitter curse of a tainted fame.

There is an affecting anecdote told of the last illness of this great man, in the *State Trials*, and the simplicity of the narration nowise injures the story. Bacon in poverty, and declining and shun-

ned by the world, came to London in extreme ill health; the only drink he could afford himself was the worst ale of the country; it evidently increased his disease. The steward of Lord Foley ventured to furnish daily to the degraded statesman a bottle of more healthy liquor: when his lordship was informed of the fact, he forbade the allowance, and a few days afterwards the once mighty chancellor of England died:—a melancholy instance of the instability of human nature, and of the uncertainty of human greatness.

There is then something radically vicious in this confusion of the duties of a minister of justice and of an ordinary politician. Like the confusion of characters in the civil law, the stronger destroys the weaker, and the functions of the judge are forgotten, perverted, or moulded to suit the views and interests of the changing politician. In a republic this confounding of discordant pursuits is peculiarly dangerous, and ought to be pre-eminently obnoxious; but in any form of government the suitor is never safe when the judge's feelings are embittered towards the advocate. A political judge in a free country (where all power is elective) must see with regret, and for obvious reasons, the success of his enemy, (for such is the language) and he will struggle to save from failure and defeat his warm partizan. It is vain to prattle of the superiority of some men to prejudice or power: human nature is unequal to such temptation; we know this *a priori*, and the consonance of fact to theory is a lamentable truth. We have noted a country where this eating worm has been gnawing through the wood towards the sap and the life-blood of the body politic; we know a country where the absurd and childish fear, that plain speaking may endanger the stability of juridical institutions, has shut the mouths and closed the eyes of those who will not therefore see and dare not speak: the danger, however, lies not in boldness, in fairness, and in candour, but in timid endurance, in that cowardice which shrinks from the performance of a public duty, because of an imagined and uncertain consequence, nowise connected with its fanciful cause. In a free country, this policy, or this prudence, or this crouching at the feet

of authority, or this unwise distrust of the people's good sense and better feeling, is of all things the most insane and dangerous. By concealment and delay the disease is confirmed, a sudden discovery awakens a burst of indignation, imagination lends her wings to reality, and multiplies the evil, the wrath of popular violence may then in one sweep of fury overwhelm what, if foreseen, reason would have distinguished, and what, if forewarned, prudence would have separated and yielded to the winds and to the waves the unsound and rotten, to establish more firmly in the land the sound, the vigorous, and the healthful. —Cave lector amice et nota.

[American.]

FOTHERGILL'S LETTER.

Mr. Poulson—The following letter was written by the justly celebrated Dr. Fothergill, of London, to the late Dr. Cadwalader Evans, of this city, who was then a practitioner of medicine in the island of Jamaica. Any thing from the pen of this eminent physician and most amiable man, will, it is presumed, be read with interest, by every one to whom his character was familiar. The votary of science will find by perusing it, that the writer felt that zeal and ardour (not to say enthusiasm) without which her durable honours will never be obtained. Persons visiting foreign countries, where novelty presents itself at every step, have it in their power to furnish innocent amusement, and frequently to convey important information; and it is much to be regretted, that in this respect travellers are too often justly chargeable with neglect. This transcript is made *verbatim* from the original letter. I.

London, 3d mo. 7th, 1751.

Esteemed Friend—I am greatly obliged to thy care and labour for a considerable addition I have received to my collection of natural curiosities. The two casks came safe, and most of their contents in very good condition. The small casks had leaked, and left the *snakes*, &c. almost dry, but the rum with which it had been filled, had prevented them from suffering very much.

The *Star Fish* was entire and well preserved; I had a smaller sort a few years ago from Antigua, and another lately, which from its numerous and complicated ramifications, is commonly called the *Medusa's Head*, *Stella*

Arborescens, among the West Indians a *Sea Spider*: the fishermen now and then meet with them, and I should be glad to have another, if any occur on your coasts; they bear drying, and may then be put up in a box or dry keg.

The *Sea Eggs* are brought hither frequently from the West Indies, especially the round, flat and oval ones; but those with large tubercles, one of which is among those I have received from thee, are not common: and the curiosity would be still greater, could they be sent with their prickles upon them: which might probably be done if the eggs were first steeped a few days in strong rum, and then well dried in the shade. We have one sort with short prickles pretty common near Scarborough, in Yorkshire, which the poor people gather, boil, pick out the meat, and sell the shell with the prickles adhering after boiling, but they soon fall off.

The *Murices* are often sent from several parts of the West Indies; but that they afford such a juice, I had not before been informed. We have some small shell fish on the coasts of Wales, which contain a small quantity of juice, at first a pale green, which by degrees becomes purple, and when marked upon linen is almost indelible, and the country people sometimes make use of it for this purpose. Would it not be worth while to try the same experiment with yours? and also to consider if it answers upon trial, by what means a quantity of it might be procured and preserved for such uses? The specimens sent were good ones.

The large thin-lipped *Conches* are very good ones, and the colours lively. I picked out of the bag of shells, three or four sorts, which I had not before, though I have a pretty large collection. The *Trumpet Shell* is also a good one, and the rest I doubt not as good as your shore affords. Thou guessest very justly that it is not quantity but variety that I want, and for specimens of all the different kinds that occur, common and uncommon, handsome or otherwise, big or little—I shall both think myself greatly obliged to thee and endeavour to make the best return I can. For as I very well know that nothing of this kind can be procured with you, nor packed up so well, without great care and considerable expense, so I shall at all times be ready to defray all charges, and hope not to neglect any occasion that offers to demonstrate my gratitude for the favour. It may not be improper to apply to the fishermen, and make it worth their while to pick up *Sea Weeds*, *Coral*, *Shells*, &c. for in dragging with nets, nay, letting fall their anchors, in places so stocked with curiosities, as most of the creeks about you are, they will often bring up something that to an European would be very acceptable.

You have a great variety of *Sponges*, (one species I have received in the cask, and a beautiful specimen of *Coralline*) as also *brain-stones*, *star-stones*, &c. fine specimens of these will be very acceptable.

Thou observest very justly, that with you every thing is alive, every spot is filled with animals or vegetables. The *Caterpillar* from the Jasmine, is a very fine one; pray, is it not possible to procure the moth or butterfly it produces? A few of the grown caterpillars might be put in a box with holes bored in it, and daily supplied with fresh Jasmine. They will soon become nymphs, and exude the fly; a pin run through it, and pricked on the inside a chip box, secures him in great perfection.

I have read several accounts of your travelling *Crab*, and am much obliged to thee for sending me the first I have seen. It will be very entertaining to know their history, and I doubt not but the frequency of their migrations will furnish thee with proper opportunities to learn it. Our Crabs in England have one thing very singular belonging to them, which is, a power of twisting off their own claws, if the claws are wounded. With a pair of pincers, or any other instrument, bruise the last joint of a claw; the crab moves it a little and it drops off near the body, not at a joint, but above it, and where nature has provided a ring for the purpose. They are very quarrelsome animals, and would soon bleed to death from such an irregular wound, but the limb being forced off regularly, the claw is soon filled with a regular callus, and a new limb is protruded. I should be very glad to have one or two of the several kinds you have: if they are first soaked in rum, and then dried, I imagine they would come very safe.

The *Lizard tribe* is a beautiful one; you abound with vast variety; be so good as to put up for me such of them as occur, especially those that may be sent without much difficulty.

The black and yellow *Snakes* seem to be of the same species; our *vipér* is still more various. The large one is a formidable creature, but is now very tame. Thus, no part of the animal world escapes my consideration, but my collection in this part is yet small. I abound most with *Shells*, and marine bodies: nothing, however, comes amiss; and after having thus given general orders for my little cabinet, I'll proceed to some other circumstances of more importance.

An intimate acquaintance of mine, who resided several years in Minorca, has this winter published an account of the diseases of that island, and the method of treating them. Their heats are inferior to yours, but still there is some resemblance, and perhaps so much, as to influence the epidemics, and render them almost similar. I have sent my friend's account of them, and shall be glad to know how far your anniversary epidemics are akin to those described. The author was a fellow student with me; we have corresponded regularly during his stay in Minorca, and I have a little assisted him in publishing his book, so that I am well satisfied of his capacity and his exactness.

I have likewise sent a treatise lately pub-

lished by Dr. Mead; it contains some observations that may perhaps be of use, though it is unhappily the fruit of old age, and like all the productions of that time of life, is feeble, and I fear wont be long lived. I would have sent a small tract which I published a few years ago, on a peculiar species of *sore throat*, but I have given away the few copies I had, and find it is not to be had till another edition is printed. If any thing appears in physic that may seem in the least worth thy notice, I shall not forget to lay it aside for thee. There is one Dr. Guthrie, a Scotsman, lately come to your island; he is a particular acquaintance of mine, and pretty well acquainted with his business. He resides, I apprehend, at a place where some mineral waters have not long since been discovered, or at least brought into vogue. If he can in any respect be of use to thee, mention my name to him, and I believe he will readily do any thing in his power to serve thee; and if thou canst point out any method how I may be of use to thee, please to let me know.

Accept my grateful acknowledgments for thy kind present, and be assured that I think myself thy obliged friend.

JOHN FOTHERGILL.

Poulson's Daily Adv.]

SLAVERY.

Deeply as we consider the subject of slavery to affect our security and military character, we esteem its importance equally great in relation to our social condition. The love of liberty, where slavery is tolerated, is rather a regard for our own rights, than those of other people. They who are themselves accustomed to command, will not easily be induced to obey, and their impatience at control will be greater perhaps, than in people accustomed to an equality with others, rather than a command of them. But still the sentiment that impels them, will rather be a love of power, than a love of liberty—the independence of a feudal chief, more than the equality of a free citizen. The natural equality of mankind cannot be very strongly impressed on people, accustomed from their infancy to behold the greatest diversity in the natural conditions of men, not only protected by law, but defended by argument; and the theory of liberty will be considered rather a beautiful speculative moral, than a guide for the administration of human affairs. Liberty must eventually become displeasing to the ears of men with whose interests it is at variance, and against whom it is employed to attack a prejudice they have long cherished, and a practice that has become habitual. Instead of liberty, founded on the natural equality of mankind, they, like our European brethren, will learn to confound it with the love of power, and distinguish the speculative theory, from what they fancifully call the *legitimate* practice. Thus the practice of slavery detracts even from the political freedom of

the master: let us trace a moment the condition of the slave.

The evils we have adverted to, arise from slavery, while the subjects of it preserve that original distinction of colour, which has been supposed to indicate a great intellectual and moral inferiority. We have endeavoured to persuade ourselves that black men, from some cause or other, are peculiarly adapted to a menial condition, and are as capable of happiness in a state of servitude, as in one of freedom. The knowledge of a disposition in mankind to extenuate their own vices, and to flatter their self love, should make us suspicious of such an argument; more especially, when we perceive an experiment of freedom makes the Haytiens as tenacious of independence as we ourselves, and discloses in the African descendant an ambition for intellectual distinction, almost as restless and ardent as in the native of Europe. But how long is the African blood to continue pure and unmixed? How long will it be before the intercourse between the different races of people shall gradually soften the African tinge, till it exhibit nothing but the dusky brown, which nature seems to have spread on the southern complexion? In the northern states, the races are kept distinct by that restraint of public opinion, which attaches something infamous to the intercourse between them: But at the southward, where the colour of a slave is thought to disqualify her from a political equality with her master, but not from his affections, an illicit intercourse is so general, that every year adds to the number whose condition would be questionable, if it were to be decided by their colour; and an easy arithmetical calculation will inform us how soon the constant addition of a white ingredient will change the complexion of the whole mass. It is not alone then on the descendants of the African that slavery is entailed, but on those whose liberties are proclaimed natural, inheritable and indefeasible, in the charter of our national independence. If slavery among the posterity of freemen can be reconciled to our institutions by considerations of private interest, how easy will the transition be to freemen themselves; or by what rule shall we preserve liberty to him, whose ancestors were all free, when we can so easily refuse it to one, who claims but half the inheritance? If half the natural birth-right of man can be taken from him, we shall soon reconcile it to our consciences to take the whole; and if any serious obstacle is found to the reduction of white persons to slavery, it will not be an aversion to the outrage, but the fear of the strength and numbers of the victims. Liberty, then, under our institutions, will be conceded not to the rights of mankind, but to their numbers; will be tolerated, not by a regard for principle, but by considerations of danger. When the line of distinction which colour makes, shall once be passed, there will be found so many interested, that a sense of common danger will unite them in defence; and this more than any attachment to those pure

principles, which formed the foundation of our government, will preserve it to our descendants. It will be impossible to preserve in mankind a deep veneration for a theory, which they every day violate in practice; and the majority of Americans, who have no other security for their institutions, than their common interest to oppress the smaller number, may perhaps see the time when they will find themselves equally as much at the power of an united and influential minority. If the man who reconciles to himself the principle which now enslaves a portion of the descendants of white people, will find any reluctance to enslave the greater number, when the revolutions of human affairs shall place them in his power, we confess ourselves unable to comprehend from what source it will arise.

The perpetuation of slavery among the issue of the mixed races, which form our present population, is not merely a violation of those principles on which our government is built, but has an influence on the social and domestic character, which does outrage to the most dignified traits of human nature. Slavery is not only extended to the descendants of freemen, but it not unfrequently happens, that the tyrant who dooms his children to servitude, becomes himself the master. The revolting picture of an illicit connexion between the proprietor and his own slave, giving rise to an issue which increases the stock of the master, is often spread before the eyes of our citizens, with all the vigour and distinctness of nature. How many times is it necessary for them to behold it, before the sentiment it excites will be changed from deep and revolting horror, to temporary disgust, and from that to lenient commiseration, and perhaps jocose levity? If not only the purity of political principle is stained by this practice, but the most dignified passions of human nature are perverted, well might Jefferson say he trembled for his country, when he reflected that God was just.

In adverting to some of the evils which arise from a toleration of slavery, and in expressing an ardent wish that all possible limits may be placed against their extension, we do not wish to interfere with the authority of the several state governments, in which slavery was tolerated by the national constitution. That subject is placed beyond the control of the American people, and any interference with it is not only unavailing, but mischievous. We have only reference to a further introduction of slavery where, as it was not established when the constitution was adopted, it cannot be protected by it; and according to our understanding of that instrument, where such an introduction must be a violation of that political equality which the constitution guarantees. The rights of slave-holding states should be treated with great delicacy and tenderness by the rest of the union. The evils are already established, and are extremely difficult of remedy; and we have little doubt in the general government of the slaves, they have been influenced by motives of humanity,

and a disposition to ameliorate the hardness of their condition. But it is because slavery in its best attire is so revolting an evil, because the spirit of humanity itself cannot heal all the wretchedness, nor afford a remedy for the evil when once introduced, that we so much deprecate the introduction.

If slavery be in itself an evil to the community which tolerates it, why are the inhabitants of new states desirous of its introduction, when they have it now in their power to place before it an impassable barrier? The answer is found in the opposition of individual interests frequently to those of the great body of the community. Nothing in our opinion can be more clear than that slavery is a permanent check upon the prosperity of any people; and yet we can easily imagine a set of men whose interests are directly promoted by it. Let us suppose for instance that the county of Middlesex, in this state, was divided into sectional portions, and that each one of them, comprehending several square miles, was granted to an individual proprietor: and let us also imagine that the population contained in each of those sections was allotted to the proprietor of its territory. Is it not apparent that the evil to the community would be great, and yet the private interest of the individual would be promoted? He would receive the labour of a thousand hands, upon the single condition of providing for them maintenance; and we can readily suppose that this would be done in the coarsest and simplest manner in which human existence can be sustained. The comfortable habitations, the little domestic luxuries, the proper attention to dress and education, every thing that elevates the character of a people, and advances their social condition, would at once disappear. The villages which checker our plains, the scenes of manufacturing industry which rise upon our water courses, the plain but picturesque farm house, which delights the eye of the traveller, would soon disappear, as when swept by the unbridled fury of the elements. In their places we should behold the rough hewn cabin, and the wide extended field travelled over by the ragged labourer and his naked children. Amidst this waste, would arise perhaps the lordly mansion of the owner, where splendour in one spot would be contrasted by poverty in a thousand, and the nourishment wrung out from the maintenance of a village exhausted in the luxury of a single family. The enlightened, independent, honest farmer—the active and intelligent mechanic, the competition in science, and the glitter of arms, would be no longer seen where slavery had fixed its accursed and desolating seal. Man would deteriorate to the level of barbarism, and ignorance would yoke him with the beast, whose labour he shared.

It is not denied that proprietors of lands in the newly settled territories, would obtain a better price by the toleration of slavery. By confining emigration to freemen, the number of emigrants would be lessened, and the competition reduced. No doubt also the present

slave holder would be benefited by the toleration. It would enlarge the sphere of his market, and add to the competition for the purchase. But must the great body of the people in such territories be cursed with the danger, expense, and wretchedness of slavery, to increase the profits of the speculator? And must the population of a free state be made miserable slaves, to add to the wealth of the owner of land? Must such a paltry consideration as the profit of a few men, fix an endless portion of misery on a whole people, violate the noblest institutions of a free government, and outrage the firmest principles of a just God? Who are the men in New England who have dared to vote for such a measure, and where is the constituent who has neglected so much the highest political and religious obligations, as to invest him once more with his confidence?

A question of great and national moment is soon to be decided. It is public opinion, which in this country is the only safe and adequate tribunal of constitutional questions. The men employed in our national councils, have often too much personal interest to be the safe depositories of such great power. Let the people, then, express that opinion which we believe they almost universally entertain, that man by God and nature is made free, and that these political institutions shall not be employed to extend and perpetuate his slavery. Let them hold the language which their religion and their liberty dictate, and mark that representative of their will who disregards the expression of it. Let this course be pursued at once, with zeal and decision, and we have little doubt that a question which is to fix the conditions of millions of people hereafter, will be decided as the statesman would pray for, and the Almighty Controller of human events would imperatively command.

[Yankee.]

THE BACTRIAN CAMEL,

As a beast of burden for Cultivators, and for transportation across the Continent to the Pacific Ocean.

By our arms, and our treaties with Great Britain, France, and Spain, the entire possession, and the absolute independent dominion has been acknowledged to us, over that vast portion of our continent, between the twenty-eighth and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude, on the Atlantic, and the forty-first and fiftieth degrees on the Pacific ocean. On casting an eye over the map, this immense region appears to be hooped and banded together by the most extensive lakes or inland seas, and some of the noblest rivers on the globe. The spirit and ingenuity of our citizens have done much, more already, perhaps, than ever was done by any other civilized people, to improve the navigation of such great streams, and thus to give activity and additional force to the influence of those extended commercial highways, as bonds of

union and harmony, and as channels of profit and prosperity.

The territory along the coast of the Pacific, within our dominion, and for a considerable distance inland, to the foot of the first range of mountains, is very fertile; it is well adapted to the production of the grains and fruits of the Atlantic portions of the union, and abounds with the greatest quantity of excellent timber, particularly ship spars, which surpass in lightness, elasticity, and strength, those of the growth of any other part of the world. The fisheries of the Columbia river, and the neighbouring inlets of the coast, have been well ascertained to be more accessible, safer, and fully as productive, as the best situations off Newfoundland. That the climate is salubrious and healthy, is proven by the numerous and robust population of Indians that inhabit the country. Settlements will no doubt very soon grow up, and spread along the shores of the Columbia river, with astonishing rapidity; and the young athletic powers of our government will, ere long, launch into its waters a fleet to move along the coasts of the Pacific, and take under its protection the commerce which the enterprise of our citizens will soon create and extend over those seas to an incalculable amount. The passage from the Chesapeake, the centre of our Atlantic border, by sea, round Cape Horn, to Columbia river, and back, as proven by the numerous voyages of our North West Coast traders, cannot be accomplished in less than ten or eleven months. These two great maritime, and highly beneficial borders of the United States, are thus, by the vast southern stretch of our continent, almost completely separated, the one from the other, and divided into distinct spheres, and ranges of maritime commerce; which, however, the obvious interests of the union render it indispensably necessary to connect by every possible and practicable means, to the heart of the territory and population, by river and by land transportation, or by both, and by the most rapid and certain communications. To enable the government to wield its potent energies with effect, and to give to the American people the means of exerting their enterprising commercial spirit to the greatest advantage, and to enable them to make due profit from the great resources of their country, it has become necessary that a short, direct, and certain means of communication should be established in every quarter, to the most remote point, and particularly over the continent, to the Pacific ocean.

Steam-boats have effected much; our improvements and facilities of intercourse, in that way, have justly attracted the admiration of the civilized world; but there are physical difficulties and obstacles which that masterly invention can neither surmount nor remove, with all its skill and power. The navigation into the interior, along the Missouri, is very circuitous; it is short of the great object, that of reaching the Pacific, by many hundreds of miles; because from the falls, there

is, thence, a distance of about eight hundred miles over to the Columbia river, no navigation practicable for such vessels of any size; from the falls downward, for a thousand or fifteen hundred miles, the navigation is entirely closed by ice during the winter season. Therefore, whatever advantages may be derived from steam-boat transportation of heavy articles, by the way of the Missouri into the interior, it must certainly be abandoned as the mail route to the coast of the Pacific; and also, I am inclined to believe, as the route for the transportation of any articles across the continent farther than Yellow Stone river. Beyond that point, other modes of conveyance must be sought for and applied; and the only means at present in our power, and capable of being so applied, are horses and oxen.

The oxen of the United States are, in many respects, very serviceable animals; they are more patient of fatigue, bear worse treatment, may be sustained on coarser food, and in the draught are not so apt to become restive as horses; but they are more unwieldy, awkward, and much slower in their pace than horses. The oxen of Spanish America, owing, perhaps, to a constitutional fierceness of temper, like the cattle of Spain, from whom they are descended, are remarkable for their superior size, agility, and quick step. They are commonly used for long journies, in caravans of heavy loaded carts, and are, generally, able to travel thirty or forty days together, with no other food than the grass, which they are occasionally turned loose to gather by the way, at the rate of about thirty miles a day. The oxen of South America not only surpass ours in speed, but they travel as fast again as our best wagon horses. The west country wagons, travelling between Baltimore and Pittsburg, a distance of two hundred and forty miles, on an average require sixteen days to perform the journey; that is, at the rate of about fifteen miles a day; and, it is believed to be as fast as a loaded team is, in any country, allowed to travel, on a journey, each day.

Supposing, then, the distance from St. Louis to the mouth of the Yellow Stone river to be twenty-five hundred miles; and allowing that a steam-boat will be able to ascend the river Missouri to the confluence of that stream, with as much ease as from New Orleans to St. Louis, it would be fifty days in reaching the Yellow Stone from St. Louis; and estimating the distance from the mouth of the Yellow Stone to that of the highest navigable part of the Multomah, or the Columbia, to be one thousand miles, by a road equally practicable with those from the Atlantic sea-ports to the western country, beyond the mountains, the land transportation from the navigable waters of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific ocean will require a journey of sixty-seven days for loaded wagons drawn by horses; and supposing the mail to ascend the river Missouri, and to pass over by the same route, and allowing it to travel at

the rate of one hundred miles a day, by land, it would be not less than one hundred days in reaching the Pacific from Washington, by way of St. Louis.

A communication from coast to coast so circuitous and tardy is obviously fraught with the most seriously evil consequences to the integrity and harmony of the union. It may be safer, and in general exposed to less risk, than that by the way of Cape Horn; but, in the winter season of our hemisphere, it must be more interrupted and longer discontinued than that by sea. It behoves us, therefore, to turn our attention, in time, to some mode of procuring a more speedy and less broken intercourse with the opposite coast of our continent, before the settlement which must, very soon, take root and spread along it, shall have their interests developed in other directions, and be estranged from their natural and beneficial connexion with their kindred of the Atlantic mother country. This communication I believe to be perfectly within our power to effect, by means of the **BACTRIAN CAMEL**, whose constitution seems to be, in all respects, formed to endure hardships, to encounter the severities of our winters on the great plains of the interior, and the bleak sterility of the Rocky mountains, no less than the sultry dry deserts traversed by the rivers Platte and Kansas of the Missouri territory.

In speaking of this valuable animal, it must be recollected, that it is not the Arabian species to which I allude, whose uses are exclusively confined to the roving inhabitants of that sultry region, beyond which they never stray, and without the arid atmosphere of which the quadruped seldom flourishes, and never multiplies; but to the animal of the camel species which traverses the vast plains of central Asia, from the Don to China; whose robust constitution and fleetness has enabled the wandering Tartars to explore, to make incursions, or to take refuge on every border, and in every quarter of the prodigiously extended regions of Asia, and eastern Europe, from the Don to China, and from the upper waters of the Ganges to those of the Tobol and the Lena, and to spend the winter on the shores of the lake Baikal, in north latitude 50 to 55. The Arabian camel has been transported into Spain, and into some parts of Spanish America, within the tropics; but it did not succeed, owing to the occasional colds, and the winter of Spain, and the excessive humidity of America. Wet and mud occasions the legs of the Arabian camel to swell, brings on a paralysis of its limbs, causes it to fall down suddenly, and of which disease the animal seldom survives long. This was observed of the Arabian camels taken by Bonaparte from Cairo into Syria, along the humid district of the coast.

"The Bactrian camel, no less patient, durable, and long lived,* than that of Arabia,

* The camel, it is said, with ordinary care, lives, and is fit for service, upwards of *forty* years.

differs from it as materially in constitution as in external form. This animal is distinguished from that of Arabia in that it has two bunches, the body longer, the tail lower, and the hair mostly of a yellowish brown; instead of which the Arabian camel, or dromedary, has only one bunch, and that very high, and which is generally covered with ash coloured hair. These animals are naturally tractable, and of great strength; for they can carry from fifteen hundred to two thousand pounds weight, and travel faster than the other camels, many leagues a day, without eating; and also, like them, will continue without drinking for twelve days together. These animals often weigh three thousand pounds, and are from six to eight feet high. The form of their body is neither disproportionate nor ugly; the head and nostrils are oblong, and the lips and mouth like those of a goat; the ears are hairy, small, and something like those of a horse; the neck is thick and handsomely arched; it lies low in the back, and seems to be inserted between the fore legs; from the throat, as far as the breast, it is adorned with beautiful hair, long and curled; the hair on the back is yellowish; towards the belly brown; and under quite dark: the belly is gray; under the breast a hard skin forms a kind of shield or defence, which comes down in a point towards the fore legs, so that when he lies down he rests himself entirely upon it: there is a thick protuberance growing round the thighs, crowned with a tuft of long black hair; the tail is short, adorned at the end with a tuft of hair; the skin is thick and hard; on this account some naturalists suppose all perspiration suppressed, and that this may be the reason why the animal drinks so seldom. The Bactrian camel is extremely hardy, and in great use among the Tartars and Mongols, from the Caspian sea to the empire of China. It bears even so severe a climate as that of Siberia, being found about the lake Baikal, where the Burats and Mongols keep great numbers. Here they live during winter on willows, and other trees, and are by this diet reduced very lean. Attempts have been made to introduce this species into Jamaica and the Barbadoes, but they did not succeed. In Tuscany, however, the Grand Duke Leopold, afterwards emperor, introduced a few, which increased, in a few years, to two hundred; but so great a price was asked for them, that they have not been purchased into other parts of Europe, which is to be lamented, when it is considered that they may be fed so very cheap, are twice as strong as a horse, and travel with a load twice as fast."

"There are several rarities among the camels. What are called the Mailary, and Ragwahl, are very swift. The last, which has a delicate shape, and is much inferior in size, never carries burdens, but is used to ride on; it is trained for running matches, and, in many places, for carrying couriers, who can go above one hundred miles a day, for nine or ten together, over burning deserts, unin-

habitable by any living creature. In western Tartary there is a white variety, very beautiful, and sacred to the idols and priests. The Chinese call them by the expressive name of *Fong Kyo Fo*, or camels with feet of the wind. This is very rare, being an exotic, and only kept by the great men. It is to this swift and delicate variety that the name of *Dromedary* ought, exclusively, to belong, as that word is derived from the Greek word which signifies *swift running*; whereas, in general, the animal with the bunch is called *Dromedary*; that with two *Camel*. This beautiful breed is found in the highest perfection in China and western Tartary."

Aided by the singular excellencies, powers, and fleetness of the *Bactrian camel*, in selecting our course over the continent, from the city of Washington to the Pacific ocean, we might proceed straight forward, by the most direct route, regardless of wildernesses or desert wastes, and of every thing but the lofty precipitous walls of the Allegheny and the Rocky mountains. We should shape our course on the back of such an animal by the nearest and straightest way; therefore, I will suppose the road to be traced out, solely with a view to such a means of conveyance. From the city of Washington the present mail route may be pursued to St. Louis, the distance of nine hundred and eighty-three miles, as set down in the list of post offices. From St. Louis to Fort Clark, a few miles below the mouth of the Kanes river; thence, passing the old Kanes villages on the Missouri, and ascending along the right bank of the Great Memehaw river, in a north-westerly direction, and crossing the Platte river to the Pownee Loup villages, in lat. 41 10, long. 100 W. thence in a westerly direction towards the lake at the head of the Yellow Stone river, in lat. 43 10, long. 110 W. through what is called the southern pass of the Rocky mountains, to the left bank of a branch of the Columbia river, called the south fork of Lewis' river; thence descending into the great dry plain at the western foot of the mountain; thence, in a north-western direction, to the mouth of the Multomah river; thence to the settlement on the coast of the Pacific near the mouth of Columbia river.

From St. Louis to the Big Horn river, near the eastern foot of the Rocky mountains, the country, according to every account, is one vast, uninterrupted, unbroken plain; consequently, the route need not deviate, either to the right or to the left, from the direct course up to the entrance into the mountains in the direction towards the head of the Yellow Stone river, and may, therefore, be safely set down at a distance of nine hundred and fifty miles; thence, over the western foot of the mountains, there is no estimating the distance with any very great degree of precision, but, making a liberal allowance for necessary deviations, the route, over that great ridge, cannot exceed three hundred miles; thence, to the sea coast at the mouth of Columbia river, by the way of the confluence of the Multo-

mah, cannot be more than six hundred and fifty miles; making, in the whole, a distance of little less than twenty-nine hundred miles from the city of Washington to the Pacific.

The fleet *Bactrian camel*, well broke for riding, which can, singly, travel for many days together, at the rate of more than one hundred miles a day, might, with reliefs, relays, and care, be made to transport the mail over the continent at the rate of two hundred miles a day, with great ease: which would carry it from the city of Washington to the mouth of Columbia river, by the direct route I have designated, by the way of St. Louis, and the head of the Yellow Stone river, in fifteen days, at least; and, in one month, an answer might be thus obtained to any communication from one coast to the other of our continent. This species of the camel is as docile and tractable for the draught, as the horse or the ox; and travelling so much faster, might, with great advantage, be applied to the draught of carriages for passengers, and the transportation of goods; and, with tolerably improved roads, would accomplish the journey with relays, along the direct route I have pointed out, from the city of Washington to the Pacific, in thirty days, with no distress, and little fatigue to the traveller. This speedy and certain mode of transportation across the continent, and in every direction into the interior, and to the north and south-western frontiers of our union, would be attended with the greatest and most important commercial benefits, as well as prodigious political advantages.

But, in addition to these more general considerations, the *Bactrian camel* would be the most valuable acquisition that our southern and western planters and farmers could possibly obtain. The camel not only sustains itself on a less quantity of food, and that of the poorest and coarsest kind, such as would be rejected even by an ass, but it will perform twice the labour of a horse, either in harness or under the pack-saddle. The camel will browse on the boughs and rough shrubbery of our forests, or feed on straw sprinkled with a little brine, in preference to the best hay. We know, that, from James river to the Mississippi, along the seaboard, where the planting system of husbandry prevails, and where the landholders are chiefly engaged in the cultivation of corn, tobacco, indigo and cotton, there is a very scanty supply of rack food made, or laid up for the support of stock. We know, too, that during the hot summer months, the labour of travelling over the burning, sandy roads of the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, is almost insupportable, and is exceedingly destructive to horses. To all the south-eastern portion of the union, therefore, the *Bactrian camel* would be by far the most valuable labouring animal that could be introduced into it. And, since it has been found, by actual experience, to increase, multiply and flourish, in Tuscany as well as in its native regions, there cannot, I should imagine, be a doubt in the mind of any

one, that all that portion of the United States, from the Potomac south and below the mountains, as well as the great plains west of the Ohio river, and on the Missouri, would, in a very high degree, be suited to its constitution and habits.

I have heard of an idle project having been actually brought before the legislature of one of the states, and being very gravely discussed, for encouraging by law, the importation of English *pheasants* and *rabbits*, and for the sowing of *Scots broom*, in some of the barren tracts of the state, as a cover for them, thereby to promote and increase the sports of the field, for the exercise and amusement of the *gentlemen citizens*. Why should not an effort be made to import so valuable an animal as the *Bactrian camel*? Would not the subject be well worthy the combined efforts of a voluntary association of planters, and public spirited citizens, to make up a fund to defray the expense of importing the breed? Are not the generally advantageous uses to which the *Bactrian camel* may be applied, sufficiently great and extensive to make the importation of the breed worthy of the serious attention of the national government? Let not this project be too hastily pronounced chimerical.—Look over any of the well stocked and cultivated farms of our country, and inquire, whence *originally* came the various plants, and animals, which constitute their comforts, delights, and riches? And a careful investigation will show that they have been gathered from every clime, and almost from every region of the habitable globe. Why not add the majestic, long lived, placid, and valuable *Bactrian camel* to the number of the auxiliary labourers and carriers for the active citizens of this nation? The subject is worthy the attention of every
AMERICAN.
American Farmer.]

No. 3.—*The Ways of Divine Providence vindicated.*

(Continued from p. 50.)

What consolation does it minister to the heart of distressed philanthropy, thus to consider all the miseries and sufferings of man, as much the concern of that perfect Being who rules the universe, as the joy whose smiles no sorrow breaks, and the prosperity whose brightness no misfortune has obscured; to consider that God, whom the absolute perfection of his nature makes the impartial father of all mankind, no less the disposer of the circumstances of the lowest and most despised, than of the highest and most honoured condition of his creatures; and consequently to know, that whatever defects may appear in the allotments of his goodness and his justice towards

them, are defects only when beheld through the deceiving medium of our imperfect comprehension.

While we humbly acquiesce in this general view which religion places before us of the Divine conduct towards mankind, reason may be justified in attempting in some degree to explain this varied aspect of the human lot into principles that lie level to its comprehension, and to vindicate the ways of Heaven in its permission.

The Creator has formed the human race with faculties, and given them opportunities for their exercise infinitely diversified. Into this variety of endowments, the variety of condition is easily resolved. Ask not why the impartial Creator did not grant to all equal faculties, and equal opportunities for their improvement and their exercise. This were as impious as it were absurd. It is enough that in these differences of human character and life, we can perceive some ends equally excellent in themselves and compatible with every moral perfection of Divinity. How are we delighted with that boundless variety which is every where displayed in the material world! and can we not see the same beauty in the diversity of circumstances and character in the moral system?—Man is formed for society. The social impulse is given him in order to his highest intellectual and moral improvement. That the end of society may be answered therefore, there is necessarily a division of human occupations into the *active* and *contemplative*. All must not be absorbed in the speculations of philosophy and the illustrations of science, else could no provision be made for the animal necessities of life; and employ all alike in the arts of necessity, and you reduce society to that state in which intellectual expansion, moral refinement, and every trait of civilization is lost in the laborious pursuit of supplies for the daily wants of nature.

(To be continued.)

Mr. FELL—I perceive inserted in the *Columbian Magazine* of 1786, the following communication, containing *anticipations* as to the progress of the United States in power and science. The thoughts of the writer at that time, which

were then deemed by the quid nuncs of that day "dreams," are now near approaching to realities; and I have no doubt your readers will perceive the probability of the first paragraph of news contained in the communication, being realized, much sooner than the writer imagined—whether against the Algerines, or some other power acting upon similar principles, we have yet to discover. If in your useful paper you deem this light effusion not improper, by inserting you will oblige an

OLD LOOKER-ON.

[From the *Columbian Magazine*.]

I was highly pleased lately with the perusal of a work styled "The Year 2500," in which the benevolent author portrays the situation which he hopes France will be in at that period, and shows in a very striking point of view, the absurdity of many of the most favourite practices of the present day, in that kingdom. I felt myself strongly impressed with the idea and threw myself on a couch where I pursued the reflection as far as I was capable, extending my view to this country. After some time I fell asleep, and dreamed that I was transported to so distant a period, as the year 1850, and that on entering a coffee-house, I took up a newspaper, and read some paragraphs of the following tenor, which struck me with surprise and pleasure.

Philadelphia, May 5, 1850.

A letter received from Cadiz, dated the 10th of March, says, "We have authentic accounts that the American admiral, Beaunale, with 10 sail of the line, has lately had a desperate engagement with a grand fleet of the Algerines, of 11 sail of the line, 6 frigates, and 4 galleys. Both fought with the utmost bravery—but two Algerine first rate vessels being blown up, and a great havoc being made among the crews of the rest, three struck and the remainder fled. The signals for the chase were made, and three more captured—the rest were driven ashore—and fire ships being sent among them, were all set in flames, and consumed. The brave admiral immediately sailed to Algiers, which he bombarded with such vigour, that in a short time all the fortifications on the side towards the sea, were levelled, and the city almost entirely reduced to ashes. The dey sent an ambassador to sue for peace, and was so

terrified at the fate of the fleet, on which he had placed all his reliance, that he consented to surrender all the piratical vessels which have so long infested the Mediterranean, and even the Atlantic."

Richmond, April 30.

By authentic advices from Kentucky, we are informed, that no less than one hundred and fifty vessels, have been built on the river Ohio, during the last year, and sent down that river and the Mississippi, laden with valuable produce, which has been carried to the West Indies, where the vessels and their cargoes have been disposed of to great advantage.

Boston, April 30.

At length the canal across the isthmus of Darien is completed. It is about 60 miles long, and a half a mile broad. First rate vessels of war can with ease sail through. The cost has been about 100,000*l*. Two vessels belonging to this port, two to Philadelphia, and one to New York, sailed through the 20th of January last bound for Canton, in China.

Columbia, May 1.

Extract from the Journals of Congress. Ordered that there be 20 professors in the university of Columbia, in this city, viz: of divinity, of church history, of Hebrew, of Greek, of humanity, of logic, of moral philosophy, of natural philosophy, of mathematics, of civil history, of common and civil law, of the law of nature and nations, of rhetoric and belles lettres, of botany, of materia medica, of physic, of chemistry, of anatomy, and of midwifery.

Charleston, April 15.

No less than 10,000 — have been transported from this state and Virginia, during the two last years to Africa, where they have formed a settlement near the mouth of the river Goree. Very few — remain in this country now, and we sincerely hope that in a few years every vestige of the infamous traffic, carried on by our ancestors in the human species, will be done away.

Pittsburg, January 15.

The canal which is making from the river Ohio to the Susquehanna, and thence to the Delaware, will be of immense advantage to the United States. If the same progress continue to be made hereafter that has been for some

time past, it will be completed in less than two years.

Delegates from the 30th new state, laid off a few months since by order of Congress, lately arrived at Columbia; and, on producing their credentials, were received into the federal council.

[*Savan. Rep.*

About half past ten o'clock, on Saturday night last, the whole of the gas lights at Leeds were suddenly extinguished, in consequence of a mistake by one of the persons at the gas house. Amongst the ludicrous circumstances to which the instantaneous darkness gave rise, was the consternation of a barber, who lost sight of his customer when his face was half shaved.

A person boasting in company with the late worthy A. Benezet how far his horse had carried him in a day, Anthony said, "Ah! my friend, I have often heard men tell how far their horses had carried them, but never how far they had carried their horses."

It is calculated that Russia covers a space of 930,000 square miles, which is a ninth part of the solid earth, and a twenty-eighth part of the entire globe.

The last news from Turkey states, that the *Vaccine* is considered as a preservative from the *Plague*; at least, that such is the opinion of two physicians, Aubin at Constantinople, and Legard at Salonique.

Twenty-eight Roman coins, some silver and the others brass, were discovered a few days ago, inclosed in a small oaken box, on Longton Moss, in Lancashire, by a man employed in cutting turf. Those which are legible, are coins of Trajan, Antonine, and Faustina, the wife of Marcus Aurelius.

☞ The communication on the subject of Manufactures, including the Address of the Carlisle Weavers, was received too late for the present number, but shall be cheerfully published in our next. The strong stimulus of self interest has made the manufacturers very active, and they have succeeded in producing a prejudice in their favour, in the minds of many who do not examine the question for themselves. It is time that some care was taken to counteract this.

Poetry.

TO HYMEN.

Hymen, the times so very bad are growing,
I fear like banks, that thou wilt shortly 'stop';
For scarce enough is in thy bus'ness doing,
To pay the rent, and lighting of thy shop.
In those dark days of dismal duns and debtors,
How rare the papers show the names of any,
Who, of thy making, buy a pair of fetters,
To give thy trade the profit of a penny.
Griev'd should I be, indeed beyond all telling,
To hear that thou wert broken, bankrupt, poor;
Griev'd to behold thy stock at auction selling,
And see "to let" chalk'd up upon thy door.
But much I fear thy bus'ness will miscarry,
And soon the sheriff be thy shoulders greet-
ing;

For few the couples bold enough to marry,
Without some prospect afterwards of eating.

Pray, Hymen, take the counsel of a friend;
Stir up at once thy wits, be sharp and clever,
And coax thy brother gods the times to mend,
Or else thy "occupation's gone" forever.

Fed. Rep.]

PEODA JINGLE.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

By Thomas Dobson & Son—Eclectic Repertory, vol. ix. No. 3, for July, 1819.

Kirk & Mercein. N. York—Edinburgh Review, No. 62. An Essay on the necessity of improving our National Forces, by William Theobald Wolfe Tone.

MARRIED.

July 21st, by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Capt. David Maffit, to Mrs. Elizabeth B. Meyers.

22d, by the Rev. Dr. Janeway, Mr. Thomas Kinsey, to Miss Catharine C. Cooke.

— at Norfolk, Virginia, by the Rev. Mr. Low, Mr. John De Bree, of Philadelphia, of the United States' navy, to Miss Mary W. Mosely, of that place.

DIED.

June 16th, of a pulmonary consumption, at Hopewell, Virginia, Dr. Warwick P. Miller, in the twenty-fourth year of his age.

July 14th, at Wilmington, Delaware, in the twenty-fifth year of her age, Mrs. Margaret S. Robinson, wife of Mr. Jonathan J. Robinson, of this city.

15th, in the 22d year of her age, Mrs. Mary Campbell, wife of Mr. Isaac Campbell, watch-case maker.

24th, Miss Sarah Pemberton, aged sixty-two.

— Mrs. Deborah F. Bryant, wife of John Y. Bryant.

25th, Mrs. Mary Smith, wife of John Smith, of the district of Southwark, aged sixty-seven years.

26th, Mrs. Susannah Murray, wife of John Murray.

27th, Mr. John Murray.

29th, Miss Mary Barnes, aged nineteen years.

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